

REMARKS

Introduction

The April 26, 2005 Office Action has been reviewed and its contents carefully noted. Reconsideration of this case, as amended and in view of the arguments made herein, is respectfully requested. Claims 37 through 50 are currently pending. By this Amendment, Claims 37, 38, 39, 43, 44, 49 and 50 have been amended. Applicant maintains that this Amendment is supported by the application, as originally-filed, and respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Objections to the Claims

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested correction of certain informalities in Claims 37, 44, 45 and 49. In response, Applicant has amended Claims 37, 38, 39, 43, 44, 49 and 50 and, therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of these objections.

With respect to Claim 45, the Examiner requested replacement of “a corresponding socket contact” with “the corresponding socket contact” and replacement of “a corresponding socket contact of a data port” with “the corresponding socket of the data port.” However, Applicant respectfully submits that to make the Examiner’s proposed corrections would result in a lack of antecedent basis for the terms “corresponding socket contact”, “corresponding socket” and “data port.” Claim 45 is dependent upon independent Claim 44 and none of the foregoing terms appear in Claim 44. Accordingly, Application respectfully requests withdrawal of these objections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, Claims 37, 38, 40, 42 through 46 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Czosnowski, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,764,043

(hereinafter, the “‘043 Patent”). The Examiner stated that the ‘043 Patent discloses a data transmission cable adapted for use in a system for determining a connection pattern of data ports, which comprises a pair of jacks, a pair of adapter jackets, and a conductor electrically connected to each of the adapter jackets.

Applicant maintains that the claimed invention is patentable over the ‘043 Patent. The claimed invention is directed to a data transmission cable adapted for use in a system for determining a connection pattern of data ports having a jack and an adapter jacket at each end of the cable. The jacks are adapted to mate with a corresponding socket of a data port. The adapter jackets include an external contact which, when the jack is mated with the corresponding socket of a data port, electrically couples to a contact located proximate the data port. A conductor extends between each external contact of the adapter jacket and electrically couples the electrical contacts.

Applicant respectfully maintains that the ‘043 Patent does not disclose a jack (or a pair of jacks), an adapter jacket (or a pair of adapter jackets), or a contact (or sensor) external or adjacent to an adapter jacket. Body 116 in the specification of the ‘043 Patent does not correspond to a jack (or a pair of jacks), but rather designates a body of a connector of a patch cord. The body is used to connect a transmission member, described as single mode 900 micron buffered fibers, with a receptacle in a telecommunications frame. Furthermore, terminal housing 118 in the specification of the ‘043 Patent comprises a pair of parallel channels for receiving electrical terminals that are used to engage both a prong in the receptacle of the telecommunications frame as well as a corresponding prong on a power supply unit.

In addition, the ‘043 Patent fails to disclose an external contact or sensor located on an adapter jacket. Notably, as shown in FIGS. 9 and 10 and described in the specification of the

'043 Patent, "protrusion 128 has a pair of access apertures 130 formed in its distal end which receive prongs 82 when protrusion 128 is received in area 102." Col. 7, lines 19-24 (emphasis added).

Furthermore, the method of detection disclosed in the '043 Patent is visual. Specifically, the system of locating ends of patch cord cables disclosed in the '043 relies on activation of an LED 78 which is located on module 54. The probe from power source 126 can be connected to a connector 106, which is disposed on an end of the cable. When power source 126 is activated, a voltage is supplied across LEDs 78. Accordingly, when voltage is supplied across a closed circuit formed by connecting two ends of a cable to the patch panel, the LEDs will light up. In contrast, in the system of the present invention a microprocessor, which includes a plurality of output drivers and input modules each of which is coupled to a socket contact and an external contact, respectively. The microprocessor initiates the transmission of a pulse signal to the first socket contact. The microprocessor then scans the input modules for a latch at a high state. Furthermore, the microprocessor of the claimed invention polls the connection pattern continuously, in contrast to the '043 Patent, which discloses manual polling that is not continuous.

Accordingly, the '043 Patent fails to disclose the data transmission cable in the claimed invention. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

In the Office Action, Claims 37, 39, 41, 47 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kennedy, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,695,365 (hereinafter, the "'365 Patent"). The Examiner stated that the '365 Patent discloses a data transmission cable adapted for use in a system for determining a connection pattern of data ports, which comprises a

pair of jacks, a pair of adapted jackets, and a conductor electrically connected to each of the adapter jackets.

Applicant maintains that the claimed invention is patentable over the '365 Patent. As discussed above, the claimed invention is directed to a data transmission cable adapted for use in a system for determining a connection pattern of data ports having a jack and an adapter jacket at each end of the cable. The jacks are adapted to mate with a corresponding socket of a data port. The adapter jackets include an external contact which, when the jack is mated with the corresponding socket of a data port, electrically couples to a contact located proximate the data port. A conductor extends between each external contact of the adapter jacket and electrically couples the electrical contacts.

Applicant respectfully maintains that the '365 Patent does not disclose the claimed invention. The '365 Patent is directed to an adapter for eliminating the need of specialized patch cords, e.g., a cable with a mini-WECO mounted at one end and a coaxial male BNC connector mounted at the other end. The sole purpose of the invention of the '365 Patent is to facilitate a change from one adapter type to another.

In addition, the '365 Patent fails to disclose a conductor extending between, and electrically connected to, contacts external to adapter jackets. As illustrated in FIG. 2 of the '043 Patent, it is contemplated that only one adapter 40 may be required to interconnect one end of a common standard mini-WECO jack plug patch cord. Accordingly, not only does the '043 Patent fail to disclose the conductor, if only one adapter is necessary then there can be no conductor extending between and electrically coupling external contacts of adapter jackets.

Accordingly, the '043 Patent fails to disclose the data transmission cable in the claimed invention. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Double Patenting

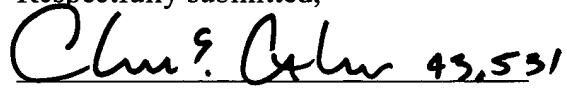
Claims 37 through 49 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,574,586 (which is the parent of this application) and over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,725,177 (to which this application claims priority). The Examiner's double patenting rejection is noted. Applicant respectfully defers responding to this rejection until such time as the double-patenting rejection is the only rejection remaining.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the Claims in the present invention are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Any additional fees or charges necessary in connection with the present application are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,

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